

Jul • Aug 2001

THE FLASHLIGHT



A Newsletter of
Mammoth Cave National Park

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Superintendent's Message –

NPS Museum Leadership Meets at Mammoth Cave

By Ronald Switzer

This summer, Mammoth Cave National Park will host the quarterly meeting of the Museum Management Program Council (MMPC), the principal advisor to the National Park Service directors on all matters pertaining to its museum collections.

We offered this park as the host site for a couple of very important reasons. First, this park is a leader in the Service's Long-Term Ecological Monitoring Prototype program and the Cumberland Piedmont Network Vital Sign Program for natural resources, both sponsoring a substantial number of new natural history collections Servicewide. These efforts must be undertaken in a manner that will ensure the public obtains maximum benefit. Specimen collections, while a necessary part of research, are potentially disruptive to the very resource we are trying to protect. Only by ensuring the items are appropriately cataloged and the information is made available to the public can we justify the collection in the first place.

Our second reason for hosting the MMPC meeting is that we want curators and natural resource managers to see what we have accomplished here at Mammoth Cave. With funding from several sources and a real team effort on the part of park staff, we have one of the best curatorial facilities in this part of the country. We also manage museum collections in a very progressive way through a Cooperative Agreement with Western Kentucky University (WKU). The agreement provides the park with the benefit of WKU faculty and student expertise, and matching funding (averaging 1 to 1) additionally benefiting the park. One example of this symbiotic partnership is the WKU collection management intern (co-funded by WKU) that will be working to manage natural resource specimens.

We are pleased to be host to this important session and hope that you have opportunity to interact with them while they are here. ♥



Terry Langford, WKU cooperator, catalogs park specimens.

Park News

NPF Photography Contest

Your photo of a national park could win a trip for four to any national park and be featured on the 2003 National Parks Pass. The due date for the contest, sponsored by the NPS and the National Park Foundation with Kodak, is January 15, 2002, so you have plenty of time to snap some summer or fall shots. For all the details, go to www.nationalparks.org, or pick up a PHOTO CONTEST brochure at the visitor center.

Corps of Engineers Study Green and Barren River Dams

The Louisville office of the Corps of Engineers has completed its study of whether or not to keep all of the locks and dams on Green and Barren Rivers. Lock and Dam 6 at the boundary of Mammoth Cave NP is one of the areas under consideration. Public comments will be accepted through August 13, 2001, according to Jane Ruhl, Project Manager, and can be viewed on the web at www.lrl.usace.army.mil/green_barren. Anyone interested in obtaining a printed copy of the study may contact Ms. Ruhl at (502) 315-6862, P.O. Box 59, Louisville, KY 40201.

Challenge Cost Share for Cave Education

The park submitted a Challenge Cost Share request last year for an education project with the South Central Kentucky Cave Owners' Association (SCKCOA), of which it is a founder. Each of the SCKCOA seven member caves contributed cash or in-kind services. The project will produce 400,000 educational color brochures, seven video public service announcements, and a 15-minute segment on WKYU-TV's Mainstreet program, which can be reused for other purposes.

Each cave is featured in the brochure, showing its role in the entire southcentral Kentucky cave story:

- Crystal Onyx: vertical shafts, calcite, and archeology
- Diamond Caverns: travertine formations in a limestone valley
- Hidden River: groundwater conservation and museum
- Kentucky Caverns: sinkhole plain
- Lost River: karst valley, springs, boat rides
- Mammoth Cave: big, dry, trunk passages
- Onyx: vertical shafts coated with flowstone

National Award to Bell's Tavern Curriculum

The American Association for State and Local History selected the Bell's Tavern site-based elementary school curriculum as a national award winner in June. Lessons in language, social studies, and math require students to write an essay comparing/contrasting 1800's daily life to present day, and use different methods to determine the size of the Tavern and make a scale drawing. The project was developed by Park City teachers and members of the Bell's Tavern Historical Park Committee, Joy Lyons, chairman. Congrats!

Working in the Woods

The backcountry crew walks one to three miles to work everyday, carrying tools and timbers. They don't whistle while they work, but there is a good deal of bantering and ribbing. Come to think of it, there are seven men on the crew – not counting work leader Jesse Craine... Bill Meredith, Cub Run; Scott Green, Cedar Spring; Steve Goodman, Elizabethtown; David Blakey, Cave City; Charles Horsely, Alabama; Bobby Thurman, Summer Shade; Brad McCubbins, Horse Cave. They are overhauling the backcountry campsites, even replacing those that have been overused. Homestead Campsite (and its ¼-mile access trail, signs, grill/campfire circle, lantern stand, picket-posts for horses) was constructed in two days. Homestead was created to replace Waterfall, the park's most used and abused site – at Waterfall, the crew abolished seven 'volunteer' fire circles and numerous 'volunteer' trails, where hikers and horses had mucked through springs. By the end of the summer, Jesse and his merry men will have completed 16 sites. Heigh-Ho!

Earthwatch on the Night Shift

Earthwatch volunteers will be in the park July 8-27, to continue inventorying artifacts along Broadway. Over the past eight years, they have covered about 2 ¼ miles, starting at Violet City and working toward the Historic Entrance. To avoid cave tours, the Earthwatch shift will run from 2p.m.-9:30 p.m., according to Park Cultural Resource Specialist Bob Ward, who coordinates the work. Earthwatch is an eco-tourism opportunity organized by a non-profit Boston-based firm that matches volunteers with professional researchers worldwide.

Author, Author



Jim Borden and Roger Brucker

Roger Brucker and Richard Watson wrote of *The Longest Cave* in 1976. Now, Brucker, retired advertising exec and long-time Mammoth Caver, has teamed up with Jim Borden, a computer data manager, to continue the tale in *Beyond Mammoth Cave: A Tale of Obsession in the World's Longest Cave*. Brucker and Borden will be in the park August 18 for a book signing in the Visitor Center, and will make presentations in the auditorium at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. that day. Brucker is co-founder and past president of the Cave Research Foundation. Borden is managing director of the Central Kentucky Karst Coalition. To learn more, visit www.rogerbrucker.com.

*If you have a
modem...*

...then you have access to a wealth of information about Mammoth Cave National Park. Set your World Wide Web browser to:

<http://www.nps.gov/maca>

Reservations!

For cave tour, campground, and picnic shelter reservations online:
[http://
reservations.nps.gov](http://reservations.nps.gov)

More Park News

Great Onyx Rangers

David Alexander, MACA, and Lisa Kennedy, from Independence NHP, will soon begin their new jobs as rangers stationed at Great Onyx Job Corps. The garage that once housed a fire truck has been converted to ranger office space.

Cemeteries Aren't for Dead Trees

The park has a three-year contract with Greenwood Tree Service, and you've seen the two crews working along the park roadsides, in the picnic area and in the campground. This summer, one crew is removing dead, downed and invasive trees from some of the park cemeteries. Bob Ward, the park's cultural resource specialist, reports work at seven cemeteries has been completed so far, including Jesse Houchins, Slemmons-Davis, Pleasant Union, Bransford-Mansfield, Daniels, Cox #2, and Holton. It's a time and materials project, so Bob says they'll keep clearing cemeteries until the time and materials run out.

Summertime VIPs

Some very important people are Volunteers In Parks this summer: Jon Messenger is assisting Public Information Officer Vickie Carson in PR activities; Jeanie Wheeler is inventorying park software and hardware for Pat Price, computer specialist; Matt DePoy is assisting Interpretation with office work, information desk duty, and assembling Wild Cave helmets; Mary Alice Bidwell has returned for a second summer to personnel; and Don and Rae McMillian are campground hosting for their first season at Mammoth Cave.

Tour the Park

Are you planning to travel a thousand miles this summer to tour Yellowstone, Grand Canyon or Yosemite. Save the gas! You can get that national park experience right here at home.

- Cave tours: Take a cave tour you haven't tried before – each park employee gets seven complementary tickets to the Historic, Frozen Niagara, or Travertine tours. As with all cave tour tickets, call ahead: to reserve a spot, talk to Joyce or Beverly in the Ticket Office on Monday-Thursday.
- Nature walks: refreshing and informative, these hikes are just a walk in the park. Topics include pond life, Floyd Collins, geology, and Mammoth Cave's human history. Two are accessible to wheelchairs.
- Evening campfire programs: campfire-storytelling is a tradition from the earliest days of the National Park Service. Learn about bears, the lure of the cave, park research, bats, and Floyd Collins. A different program is offered every night of the week.

For information and schedules, call the park at 270/758-2254 or 270/773-2111, or visit the park website at www.nps.gov/maca/.

SCAs in Maintenance

Danielle D'Rose is calculating how much floor space each division requires and how they might fit into the housing area once Phase I of the visitor center project begins; Chris Hansen is working on Maintenance's file of drawings, archiving those that need to be preserved.

Personnel

Promotions: Mark Davis-Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor; David Alexander and Lisa Kennedy-Protection Rangers stationed at Great Onyx Job Corps.

Temporary Hires: Park Guides: Jason Walz, Jose' Monsegue, Spencer Hoover, Jennifer Johnson, John Keabler, Zacchaeus Compson, Katina Buster, Michael Nunnally, Harriet Patterson, Eric Holm, Tara Johnson, Gabriel Esters, Benjamin Crace; Visitor Use Asst.: Amber Lush; Information Receptionist: Ellen Holman.

30-day-emergency Hire: Carpenter: Ted Diamond, Ken Neagle; Tractor Operator: Billy Townsend; Campground VUA: Stacey Button; Michele Webber, biological science technician.

SCEP- Student Trainee (General Biological Science): Lillian Scoggins, Katie Seadler.

The Flashlight is produced by the Division of External Programs and Communications. Our Web Page address is www.nps.gov/maca. Please contact us if you need further information. – Jim Carroll, Vickie Carson, Tres Seymour, Mary Anne Davis, and Heidi Carle, Mammoth Cave National Park, P.O. Box 7, Mammoth Cave, KY 42259; by telephone at (270)758-2254, or (270)773-2111; by e-mail at Vickie_Carson@nps.gov.

Calendar

June 23	Summer cave tour schedule began
July 1	Mammoth Cave NP established, 1941
July 8-28	Earthwatch volunteers
July 31-Aug. 2	Museum Management Protection Council, Training Center
August 5-11	NSS work week
August 18	Karstlands Music Series, Chuck Lawson
August 18	Book Signing – <i>Beyond Mammoth Cave</i> , Visitor Center
August 20	Interim cave tour schedule begins
August 24	Women's Equality Day
August 25	Founder's Day, Organic Act signed 1916
September 4	Fall cave tour schedule begins
September 15	Target work day
September 15	Karstlands Music Series, Hays Brothers Bluegrass Band
September 27-29	Kentucky Folklife Festival, featuring U.S. 31W Heritage Corridor, Frankfort
October 6	Bowling Green League of Cyclists workday
October 6-14	Colorfall
October 13	Karstlands Music Series, Billyblues
October 20	Unveiling of the Kentucky Monument at Vicksburg NMP
October 22-24	Kentucky Tourism Industry Annual Conference, Ft. Mitchell
November 3	Bowling Green League of Cyclist workday
November 3-4	NSS work weekend
November 5-8	National Cave Association annual meeting, Chattanooga
November 7	Federal Agency Career Fair, hosted by KAFTC members and Mammoth Cave NP



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